

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A zippered closure comprising:

a front zipper profile having a base portion and a finger extending from the base portion and positioned between lateral ends of the base portion, the base portion having a substantially flat facing side surface and an attaching side surface opposite the facing side surface, the finger extending in a generally transverse direction from the facing side surface of the base portion[[,]];

a back zipper profile having a base with opposed ends and two opposed flanges with a channel formed therebetween, the base having a generally flat attaching side surface and opposed lateral ends with each of the two opposed flanges respectively extending from each lateral end, each of the two flanges having opposed lateral edges that extend upwardly and outwardly from the base to an intermediate point in a thickness direction at which point the opposed lateral edges extend laterally inwardly and terminate in an upwardly facing side surface, a first distance measured along a line parallel to the base and connecting points of the opposed lateral edges is greater than a second distance measured between the opposed ends of the base[[,]];

wherein the channel extends from the facing side surface towards the attaching side surface[[,]]; and

wherein the finger is positioned in the channel and the substantially flat facing side surface of the front zipper profile abuts the substantially flat facing side surface of the back zipper profile.

2. (Original) The zippered closure of claim 1, wherein the attaching side of the front zipper profile is attached to a first bag film, and the attaching side of the back zipper profile is attached to a second bag film.

3. – 7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) The zippered closure of claim 1, wherein the finger is rounded at its top edges.

9. (Currently Amended) A bag, the bag having a mouth and a zippered closure at the mouth, the zippered closure comprising:

a front zipper profile having a base portion and a finger extending from the base portion and positioned between lateral ends of the base portion, the base portion having a substantially flat facing side surface and an attaching side surface opposite the facing side surface, the finger extending in a generally transverse direction from the facing side surface of the base portion[.];

a back zipper profile having a base with opposed ends and two opposed flanges with a channel formed therebetween, the base having a generally flat attaching side surface and opposed lateral ends with each of the two opposed flanges respectively extending from each lateral end, each of the two flanges having opposed lateral edges that extend upwardly and outwardly from the base to an intermediate point in a thickness direction at which point the opposed lateral edges extend laterally inwardly and terminate

in an upwardly facing side surface, a first distance measured along a line parallel to the base and connecting points of the opposed lateral edges is greater than a second distance measured between the opposed ends of the base[[,]];:

wherein the finger is positioned in the channel and the substantially flat facing side surface of the front zipper profile abuts the substantially flat facing side surface of the back zipper profile.

10. (Original) The bag of claim 9, wherein the attaching side of the front zipper profile is attached to a first bag film, and the attaching side of the back zipper profile is attached to a second bag film.

11. – 15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) The bag of claim 9, wherein the finger is rounded at its top edges.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of making a bag having a zippered closure comprising the steps of:

providing a first bag film;

providing a second bag film in substantial registration with the first bag film;

providing a zippered closure having a front zipper profile and a back zipper profile, the front zipper profile having a base portion and a finger extending from the base portion and positioned between lateral ends of the base portion, the base portion

having a substantially flat facing side surface and an attaching side surface opposite the facing side, the finger extending in a generally transverse direction from the facing side surface of the base portion, the back zipper profile having a base with opposed ends and two opposed flanges with a channel formed therebetween, the base having a generally flat attaching side surface and opposed lateral ends with each of the two opposed flanges respectively extending from each lateral end, each of the two flanges having opposed lateral edges that extend upwardly and outwardly from the base to an intermediate point in a thickness direction at which point the opposed lateral edges extend laterally inwardly and terminate in an upwardly facing side surface, a first distance measured along a line parallel to the base and connecting points of the opposed lateral edges is greater than a second distance measured between the opposed ends of the base, wherein the finger is positioned in the channel and the substantially flat facing side surface of the front zipper profile abuts the substantially flat facing side surface of the back zipper profile;

guiding the zippered closure to a desired location between the first bag film and second bag film; and

attaching the front zipper profile to the first film via the front zipper profile attaching side surface and the back zipper profile to the second film via the second zipper profile attaching side surface.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the attaching side of the front zipper profile is attached to the first bag film, and the attaching side of the back zipper profile is attached to the second bag film.

19. – 23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the finger is rounded at its top edges.

25. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of attaching is performed by heat sealing the front zipper profile to the first film and the back zipper profile to the second film.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of guiding includes a guide having ends shaped to accommodate the edges of the front and back zipper profiles.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the guide includes a pair of rods, and the ends have an inverted arrow shape.

28. (Previously presented) The zippered closure of claim 1, wherein the facing side surface of the front zipper profile is wider than the attaching side surface.

29. (Previously presented) The bag of claim 9, wherein the facing side surface of the front zipper profile is wider than the attaching side surface.

Appl. No. 11/476,357
Amdt. Dated June 4, 2009
Reply to Office Action of June 1, 2006

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the facing side surface of the front zipper profile is wider than the attaching side surface.

31. - 36. (Canceled)